(d) The previous studies carried out for the chemical analysis of the iron pillar indicate that it is made of pure wrought iron free from Manganese, containing high Phosphorous and very low Sulphar content. In the year 1998, a Department of Science and Technology Project for non-destructive evaluation of Iron Pillar, proposed by Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam, was approved. This study has revealed that the passive rust scales of the pillar formed on the surface indicate the protective nature of the oxide structure developed and its stability against corrosion.

Remains of temples in Tamil Nadu

2635. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Archaeological Survey of India had discovered remains of two temples near the shore temple of Mamallapuram in February-March, 2005 excavations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the ASI in this regard; and

(d) whether the ASI is carrying out any new excavations in the State?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India has discovered remains of two structural temples south of the shore temple of Mamallapuram.

(b) The first temple is located adjacent to the south of the shore temple, while the second temple is at a distance of nearly 100 m from the first temple. The remains of the first temple consist of sanctum and an entrance porch. The remains of the second temple reveal the foundation of a structural temple with some scattered architectural members.

(c) The ASI has taken steps to preserve all the excavated structures.

(d) No, Sir.

Cutting of trees around historical monuments

†2636. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Archaeological Survey of India

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

had cut hundreds of trees around historical 'Lal Quila' posing a serious threat to the environment;

(b) whether Government are also aware that Hon'ble Supreme Court of India had restrained A.S.I. from disturbing *status quo* of 'Lal Quila';

(c) if so, the reasons for such large scale cutting of trees;

(d) whether Government have taken any action in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) The pruning/trimming of about 50 trees were carried out in the Red Fort in connection with the celebration of Republic Day, in order the facilitate the smooth flow of tableaux and safety of the contingents. However, the pruning in some cases was in excess of actual requirement. An inquiry was conducted in the matter and departmental action has been initiated. Under the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, an Expert Committee has been constituted to prepare a Conservation Management Plan for the Red Fort, and to decide upon the immediate step to be taken for safeguarding the monument, pending finalization of the Plan.

Strikes and lockouts in PSUs

2637. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public Sector Companies having faced lockouts or strikes in the last three years;

(b) which of these companies are found to be chronically sick;

(c) whether Government would take the help of private industry to turn around companies that have potential for revival;

(d) which of these companies have been referred to the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enerprises (BRPSE);

(e) whether the Board has advised the Government on disinvestment/ closure/sale of any of these companies; and

(f) if so, the details of these companies?